

The Cost of Making Right Choices

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As I look at life, I realize that each final decision, plan, thought or action is arrived at through a sequence of choices. **Proverb 17: 24** states, “*A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool’s eyes wander to the end of the earth.*” The truth to glean from this verse is that a wise person will seek wisdom from godly counsel and proven facts to make decisions before pursuing something.

On the other hand, an unwise person may think to himself that buying a house or a new car is a good idea but lack the wisdom of gathering the facts or seeking counsel. In a rush of gratifying himself or impressing his friends, he buys the house or car and after a month starts finding out the facts he avoided to think about in the beginning, “*oh my income is limited, now I have to use credit cards to pay mortgage/car payments. The furnace needs to be repaired, wow, the cost of maintenance is high, why did I not think of all these facts a month ago?*” His eyes wandered from wisdom and now he is left wandering even the more...*to the end of the earth (proverbs 17:24b)*. We maybe in denial when making these wrong choices but that will not stop us from getting bad results and paying for the consequences.

A wrong choice can snow ball to a huge problem in such a short time. Lord helps us to keep wisdom in view. God (the voice of wisdom at its best) may say, “*wait, do not rush into changing jobs just because you do not like your current boss*”. How do we keep wisdom in view in this example, remind yourself that if God’s view on the matter is wait, then regardless of what anyone may say, they are all wrong and any other decision made that is not in line with God’s view will only lead to *a wandering to the end of the earth (proverbs 17:24b)*.

Sometimes we feel that our plans are the best in the light of what is happening, but God knows the end from the beginning. Why find out the tough way? It has been said, “*we learn through mistakes,*” and that is true to some extent. The whole truth is we can learn from others people’s mistakes without having to pay the price of making the same mistakes. There are times when we make mistakes because of lack of experience or just accidentally, am not talking of such times. I am talking about those times when we have prayed, we know the facts and even know whom to seek counsel from but we still go ahead and make an unwise choice which leaves us miserable, indebt, hurt, ashamed, or disconnected from the ones you love.

Today, choose to be discerning and keep wisdom in view. Choose to seek the counsel of God before making decisions. Choose to take the Lord at His word even when it seems your decision would have been better. Choose to trust that He knows the end and believe His counsel over your friends. That will free you to trust in God, it will break the chains of people’s opinion over your life and the desire to please or impress others.

Taking such a stance will make you look weird in the eyes of the world. If that is what it takes to be in good standing with God, then let it be so. Count the cost and be willing to pay up front than wait to pay the unpleasant consequences thereafter and your life will be blessed.